

Message Text

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51

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 OIC-04

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 SAM-01 EA-11 AF-10 DRC-01 /159 W

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O 201216Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8181

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM ICRC SP

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR

REF: (A) MADRID 1161; (B) STATE 32618

1. IN FOLLOW-UP CALL MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (BENITO) TOLD EMBOFF THAT MFA HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS DELEGATION ON THE CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE US DELEGATION IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT CHAOTIC SITUATION FROM DEVELOPING AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS BY VARIOUS REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS TO BE INVITED AS PARTICIPANTS. BENITO ESTIMATED THAT SUPPORTERS OF EFFORTS TO INVITE THESE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING PRG, WERE BACKED BY AMPLE MAJORITY OF INVITEE COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH SPAIN PREFERRED TO SEE THAT NONE OF THESE VARIOUS INSURGENT GROUPS WERE REPRESENTED, IT WAS HESITANT TO BE MANEUVERED INTO POSITION OF OPPOSITION WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES.

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2. BENITO SAID THAT SPAIN WOULD VOTE AGAINST SEATING OF

VARIOUS REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS AS OBSERVERS OR PARTICIPANTS PROVIDING THERE WAS SECRET VOTE AND THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES VOTED LIKEWISE. HE SAID THAT SPAIN ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO NEGATIVE VOTE BY UK AND GREECE AS WELL AS US AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAD LINED UP EARLIER IN OPPOSING SEATING OF GUINEA-BISSAU IN UN. SPAIN FELT THAT UK WAS OFTEN IN POSITION TO RALLY A NUMBER OF OTHER STATES AND MFA HOPED THAT UK WOULD COLLABORATE WITH US AND SPAIN IN THIS INSTANCE.

3. IN THE EVENT OF AN OPEN VOTE ON A MOTION TO ALLOW REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE WITHOUT RIGHT TO VOTE, BENITO SAID HE HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT SPAIN SHOULD ABSTAIN. HE FEARED, HOWEVER, THAT EVENTS HAD ALREADY OVERTAKEN THIS POSSIBILITY, INASMUCH AS OAU HAD ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SEEK PARTICIPATION FOR A NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS WITH THE RIGHT TO VOTE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BENITO FEARED THAT THE WHOLE OUTLOOK FOR THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE GRIM AND HE DID NOT SEE HOW A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE REACHED.
RIVERO

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30 JUN 2005

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